

# The GRANGE

Issue: 72

March

1998

## SPRING BREAK - RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS ?

Spring Break! What a wild and wonderful time at the Grange. There were 621 visitors at The Grange on Thursday March 19, alone. Hundreds of children darted here and there trying to complete the new activity sheets. If you have not tried one ...do. Both are fun and provide a good learning experience. Spring Break was a trial run for the hand outs and there will be further refinements. We would appreciate your suggestions and comments.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the days of Spring Break, including the students who joined us this year. Special thanks to the volunteers who came in on Monday and Tuesday and to their day captains, Avril Stringer and Enid Martin.

## ATTENTION ! ATTENTION !

We are seeking volunteers who would like to work with school groups. We are developing more school programmes and would love to have you join us. Days and time to be arranged. No previous experience necessary. We will provide training and strategies for working with school kids. Contact Jenny Rieger or Pat Robertson if you are interested.

**Researchers:** Visitors from The Art Institute of Chicago were interested in the carpet and wallpaper at The Grange. They would like to know where they were made? A business card for contacting the curator, Judith Barter, has been left in the office.

## GET READY FOR ART IN BLOOM

APRIL 21 - 24, 1998.

An AGO Volunteer Committee Fund Raiser

## LADIES OF THE 18th CENTURY

At this time of year, looking forward to spring and summer, most of us take a hard look in the mirror and wonder what we can do to improve what we see. Mr. E. Evans had the answer for ladies of the 18th century. The Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1782, carried the following ad.

### *For the complexion, etc*

*The True Balm of Lilies, an incomparable cosmetic, which may be depended on not only to be the fastest and greatest beautifier of the skin, of anything else in the world; but will also effectually take away all appearance of wrinkles, freckles, and tan; and makes the skin (though naturally ever so brown etc. ) beautifully fair and soft; it also revives the spirits, if ever so low, and creates a lively and chearful [sic] countenance, strengthens the sight, cherishes and promotes the circulation of the blood, is very efficacious for making the teeth of a beautiful white, and preserves them to the last state of life, price 1s, 2d. and 4s. per bottle. Like wise Evan's curious Rouge, which immediately gives the complexion a very beautiful and natural bloom, which cannot be distinguished from real nature, and has that particular excellence, as not to come off, either by wiping or perspiration, price 5s. per pot, with proper directions.*

*The above articles to be had only of E.Evans, Hair-dresser to her Majesty, and Perfumer to His Royal Highness Prince Edward, at No. 3 Dover Street, Piccadilly, and at his shop at the corner of St. Bride's Passage, No. 83 Fleet Street.*

*Every other kind of Perfumery, both Foreign and English, in the highest perfection, much cheaper than at any other shop in London wholesale, and retail.*

*Merchants and traders supplied on very advantageous terms.*

Don't you wish we had something like this today?

- Avril Stringer



## The Grange Volunteer Committee 1997-98

### CHAIR

Flo Morson  
Tel: (416) 481-8336

### COMMUNICATIONS

Marg McGuigan  
Tel: (416) 964-2283

### EDUCATION

Pat Robertson  
Tel: (416) 483-3679

### FINANCE

Helen Brown  
Tel: (416) 293-0856

### GRANGE DINNERS

Jane Ash & Sally Lowrey  
Tel: (416) 233-7316 & 425-1776

### GRANGE HOUSE

Jane Heinemann  
Tel: (416) 466-0078

### GRANGE LECTURES & TOURS

Helvi Hunter  
Tel: (416) 484-1074

### HISTORIC KITCHENS

Anna Patrick  
Tel: (416) 322-0763

### RESEARCH

Avril Stringer  
Tel: (416) 924-3642

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Elvira Putrus  
Tel: (416) 759-7175

### STAFFING

Georgette Caldwell  
Tel: (416) 654-1536

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elaine Maloney  
Tel: (416) 766-7000

## REMINDER

Please submit your news  
articles for the next  
Grange Newsletter by  
**MAY 10 th, 1998.**

# COMING EVENTS

## VOLUNTEER SUPPER

The March 24, 1998 supper speaker was changed.

Liz Lundell, author of Estates of Old Toronto was the speaker of the evening.

## ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Date: May 5, 1998

*Ghost Towns and Other Things with Ron Brown*

Cost: \$ 40.00

For more information see bulletin board and/or call Helvi Hunter.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Monday, May 11, 1998

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: The Grange

Program: *A wonderful dinner and a short Annual Report*

## INTERPRETING THE GRANGE

A few terms for describing The Grange window.

- the **border** depicts oak leaves (an old British symbol)
- the **etched design** is a **fleur-de-lis** which does not indicate sympathy with France or French Canada.
- the **bolt** and the **tun** we all know. Bolt is an old word for arrow, and the tun is a large barrel.
- the **twisted rope** under the tun is called a **torse** or **crest wreath**. It should be wrapped around a Knight's helm and is thought to be copied by crusaders from Arab headdress.
- the bolts in two of the quarterings are correctly called **bird bolts** and the horns in the chevron quarterings are called **stringed bugles**.

(Part of an item in Newsletter 54, November 1993)

## TEMPERATURE PROBLEMS AT THE GRANGE

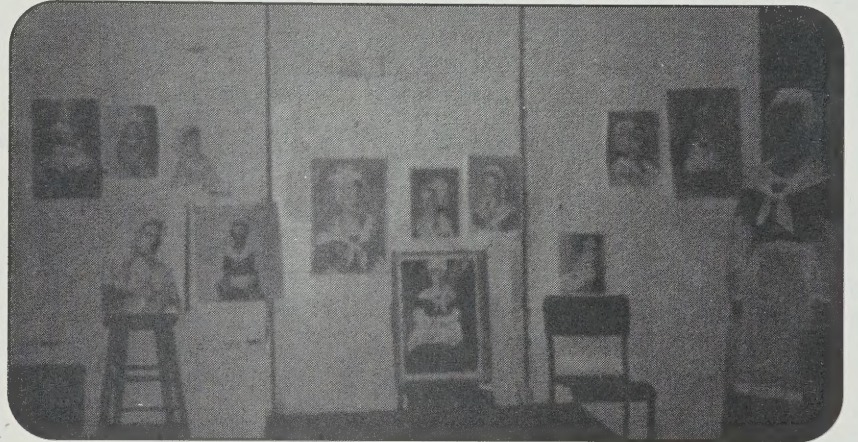
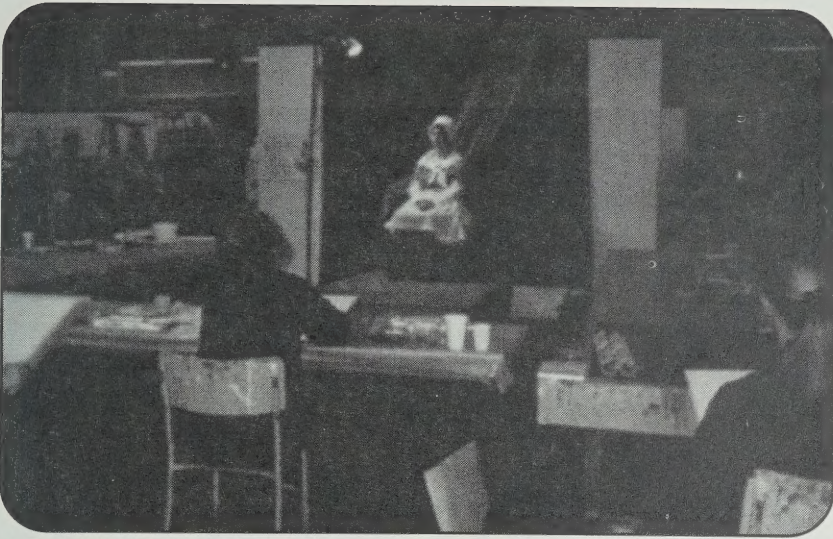
The plant operations folk and the air balancing people think they have found out the problem with inconsistent temperatures in the house. Basically, the thermostat that controls the basement area is in the ante-room. The air from the air duct in the floor blows air from the library at the thermostat. If that air is at normal temperature, the thermostat cools down to keep the temperature level. This, of course, cools the basement area. Plant operations have come up with a way of controlling the problem and promise to have systems working soon.

In the modern kitchen, the floor vents are not sending out enough air. The air balancer, will adjust this. If the kitchen is still hot, the recommendation will be to replace the fan with a larger unit. As this is expensive, let's hope the balancing will work.

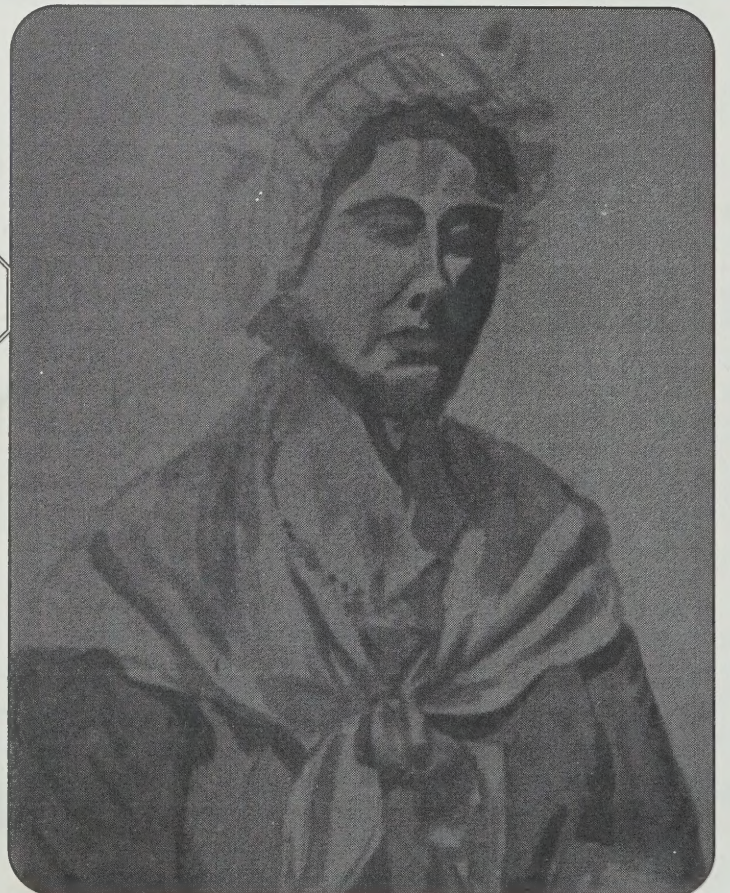
## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Wednesday evening volunteer, Francine Dion-Holdom has been greatly missed by fellow volunteers these past few months. Francine, along with her husband Bob and son Jeremy are spending three months in Japan. While Bob spends his days lecturing, Francine and Jeremy explore the many sites and sounds of a foreign land.





**Wednesday Grange  
Volunteer, Deborah  
Motton, models for an  
AGO art class.**





## RESEARCH REVIEW

Two exceptional articles have been given to me in the past few weeks. One written by Jane Heinemann, *An Invitation to Dinner, 1835* is a comprehensive review of dining customs in the early 19th century. The second article was passed along to me by Enid Martin from a recent issue of *Antique & Collectibles Trader* magazine and is the history of clothing storage. These articles have been put in the research books as they are each too long to be re-printed here. The following is a synopsis of each article but I urge you to read the whole, I know you will find them interesting and informative.

*An Invitation to Dinner, 1835* supposes that you have been asked to dinner at The Grange. What time should you arrive? Quoting Jeanne Minhinnick, Jane tells us of the changing dinner hour in the 19th century, "In the early part of the century, dinner was nearly always in the afternoon." By the end of the century "seven or eight" was a more likely dinner hour. There was strict protocol in the entry to the dining room and in the seating at the table.

Throughout the 18th century, the women sat at one end of the table, near the hostess and the gentlemen at the other end ... By the 19th century the modern custom "boy-girl" etc. was adopted, called in 1788 "promiscuous seating!"

The article then discusses the actual table, the setting and what would have been served, who carved etc? Questions we are often asked by visitors!

The article, *Clothing Storage* by M. Andrews is equally fascinating. It discusses clothing storage from trunks made from hollow trees with crude lids to the wardrobes and closets of today. "The first storage furniture was the coffer or low chest...; serving as seat, storage and occasionally, even bed." The evolution of the hollow tree chest to the elegant dresser such as the one we have in the Best Bedroom is clearly illustrated. So too, is the type of wood used and its suitability. Oak was one of the first woods, "...it was durable and plentiful." but with the problems of shrinking and warping. In North America, pine was often used as well as the available hardwoods, "...cherry, maple, oak and walnut, all of which offered creative opportunities with grain."

Why is the large piece of furniture in the Music Room called a "linen-press"? How often have we been asked that? Andrews explains the word "press" replaced "aumbry" or "almery" from the word "armoire" in the early 17th century. "The American armoire or wardrobe, was a functional adaptation by Pennsylvanian colonists who lacked closets and light interior partitions framing because their houses were made of stone." "In the 1730s, the chifforobe was developed - a combination of chest of drawers and wardrobe that featured a divided storage area behind doors."

These articles contain much more information than I have mentioned here. As I said earlier, they are both extremely interesting and illustrate many pieces of information useful to us as Historical Interpreters.

-Avril Stringer, *The Grange Research*

## RECOMMENDED READING

*The Beaver* February-March 1998 -- This issue of *The Beaver* contains a very interesting article on the restoration of the original Hudson's Bay Company Charter issued by King Charles II in 1670, a bit before the period of The Grange admittedly, but an important part of the founding of our country. The article covers not only the techniques of parchment restoration and preservation, but something of the history of the Company of Adventurers and the procedures involved in issuing such a document in the seventeenth century.

Another publication, which came our way recently, was one from Colonial Williamsburg. There are two fascinating articles in this issue, one on silhouettes and another on pineapples.

The silhouette article is of interest to Grange volunteers as silhouette cutting is used as part of the Daily Pursuits programme. This article has been re-produced and put into the 1998 Research Book. The article on pineapples is also relevant to The Grange since we usually have one on the table at Christmas and visitors do ask questions about its validity. Apparently, the pineapple has great symbolism, it is a symbol of hospitality, an early Christian symbol associated with the Cross and much more. This is a long article and one worth reading

### ANOTHER STRANGE CO-INCIDENCE

As you saw from the last Newsletter, the Fifth Duke of Argyll and his daughter Lady Charlotte knew Susan and Jane Ferrier. (Two of Susan's granddaughters married into the Boulton family.) In his memoirs, Thomas Dixon, "our" Harriet's father, tells us that his mother was a god-child of the Fourth Duke of Argyll!

### TORONTO WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

We have all heard the theory that the word "Toronto" means "meeting place" or perhaps "meeting of the waters". Also, recently, we were told that it means "place of portage".

The curators at Fort York however, inform us that these theories are no longer in vogue. Current research now gives us much more colourful terms:

"Trees in Water" or "Fish Weir"

We should also keep in mind that the name "Toronto" originally referred to Lake Toronto - now Lake Simcoe. So, the area of the "trees in water" or the "fish weir" is probably somewhat north of the present City of Toronto.